

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TUNIS 02862 230108Z

44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

EB-07 /065 W

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R 221618Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2488

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 2862

USCINCEUR AND CINCUSNAVEUR ALSO FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, TS, EG

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN NAVY VESSEL CALLS AT TUNIS

REF: CAIRO 4880 (NOTAL)

1. EGYPTIAN NAVY DESTROYER SUEZ BEGINS FOUR-DAY PORT CALL IN TUNIS APRIL 22. ARRIVAL WAS GREETED BY WIDE PRESS COVERAGE THAT NOTED SHIP IS COMMANDED BY CAPTAIN ABDERRAHMAN AMJED AND HAS CREW OF 345 OFFICERS AND MEN. PRESS ALSO REPORTED THAT VISIT IS IN "FRAMEWORK OF STRENGTHENING THE PRIVILEGED FRATERNAL TIES THAT UNITE OUR TWO COUNTRIES."

2. TUNISIAN DEFENSE MINISTRY SOURCES ADVISE US THAT THIS IS THE FIRST EGYPTIAN NAVAL VISIT IN TUNISIA SINCE 1975. WE HAVE NO RECORD, HOWEVER, OF AN EGYPTIAN VISIT HERE OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS. THE VISIT COMES AS TENSIONS BETWEEN TUNISIA AND LIBYA ARE HIGH, AND SOME NINE DAYS
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PAGE 02 TUNIS 02862 230108Z

AFTER CAIRO PRESS (SEE REFTTEL) REPORTED THAT EGYPT IS

DETERMINED TO DEFEND TUNISIAN AIRSPACE AGAINST LIBYAN
AIR FORCE INCURSIONS.

3. WHILE THE SUEZ IS IN TUNIS, THE USS WOOD CONTINUES
ITS VISIT IN BIZERTE WHERE IT IS ASSISTING REPAIRS TO
THE TUNISIAN DESTROYER PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA. THERE HAS
BEEN NO PUBLICIT GIVEN TO THE WOOD VISIT IN THE TUNISIANS
MEDIA.
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